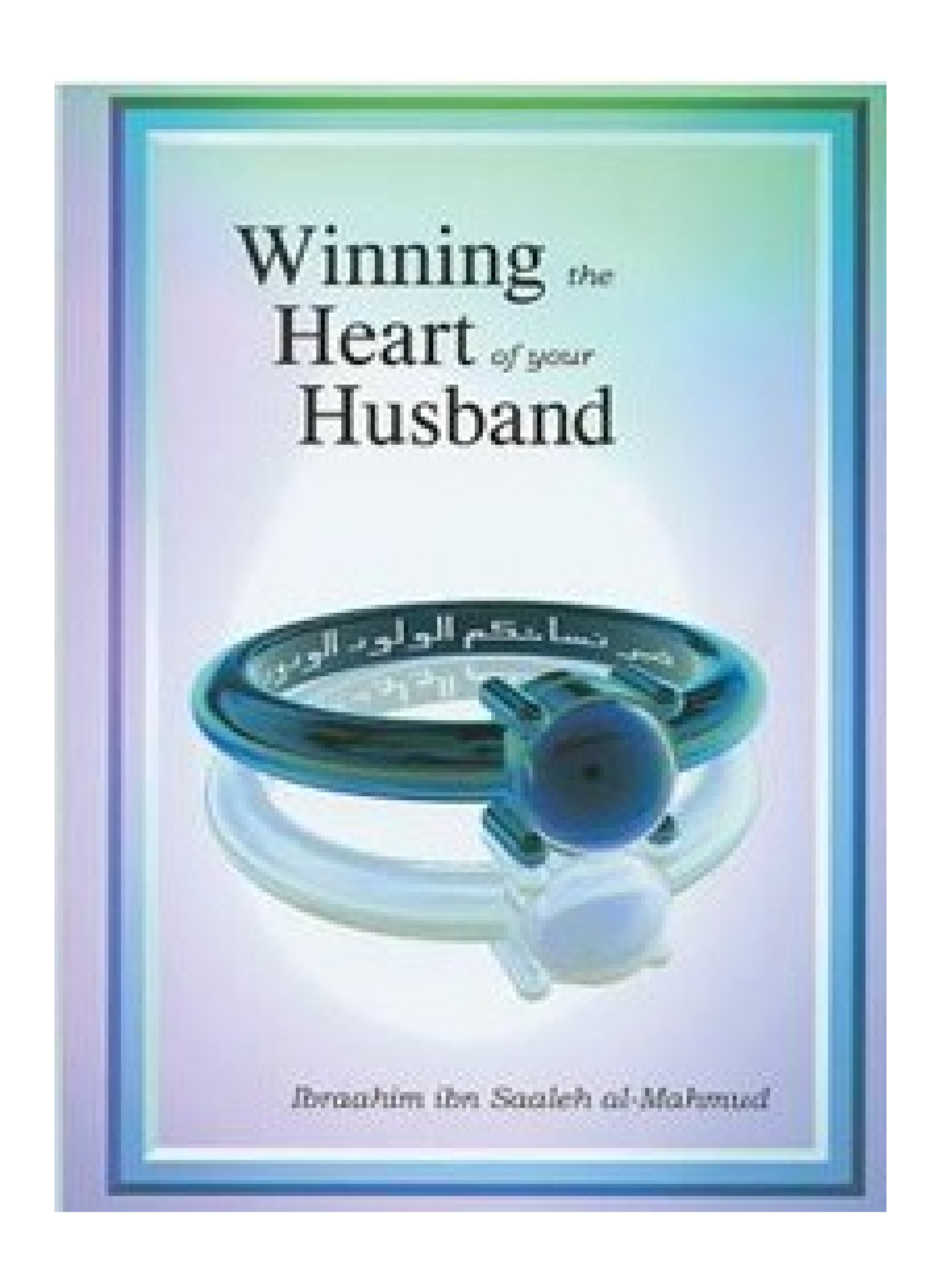


Winning the Heart of your Husband
Ibraahim ibn Saaleh al-Mahmud

Introduction

All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him, seek His aid and ask for His forgiveness. We seek Allah's refuge from the evils of ourselves and from our evil actions. Whomsoever Allah guides none can lead astray, and whomsoever Allah leads astray none can guide. I testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah Alone, having no partners, and I testify that Muhammad is His Slave and Messenger.

Allah ﷻ says, **﴾O you who believe! Fear Allah as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam﴿**[1]

﴾O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person, and from him He created his wife, and from them both He created many men and women and fear…﴿[2]

﴾O who you believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and speak the truth. He will direct you to do

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[1] Al-Imran: Verse 102.
[2] An-Nisa': Verse 1.

righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger he has indeed achieved a great achievement﴿[3]

Allah ﷻ has ordained marriage between people for certain important reasons and benefits for both individuals and community. Among them:

1- Obeying Allah ﷻ, Allah ﷻ says, **﴾marry women of your choice﴿**[4]
2- Preserving human race in order to inhabit the earth and worship Allah ﷻ.
3- Guarding one's chastity, lowering one's gaze and satisfying one's desire lawfully.
4- Preserving one's roots.
5- Spiritual repose.
6- Increasing the Ummah of Muhammad ﷺ.
7- Protecting society from moral and sexual diseases.

However, in the course of time, due to the contact between countries and the influence of disbelieving countries on some Muslim states, as well as the effect of some destructive ideas and movies on some Muslims, marriage problems have started to appear and spread like wild fire to

[3] Al-Ahzab: Verses 70-71.
[4] An-Nisa': Verse 3.

the point that more than 50% of court cases are about marital problems.

Therefore, I have decided to help to solve this thorny problem by writing this book, which I have called "How To Win Your Husband's Heart."

Reasons for writing this book:

1- The increase in marital problems.
2- The spread of divorce cases in our Muslim community.
3- The interference of women in their husbands' affairs and men abdicating some of their responsibilities.
4- Muslims' influence and fascination by Western ideas and destructive and indecent movies.

I have prepared this paper with the belief that most marital problems are caused by women. So I ask Allah ﷻ to help, with this paper both men and women. It is worth mentioning that a wise and sincere woman knows how to win her husband's love with her noble character and manner, her obedience, amiable behaviour and beauty.

The Prophet ﷺ asked one of the Companions' wives: "Have you got a husband?" She said: "Yes." He ﷺ asked: "How do you treat him?" She replied: "I spare no pains in obeying him, except what I cannot do." The Prophet ﷺ then said: "Make sure that you obey him, because he is your Paradise or Hellfire (i.e. if you obey him you will enter Paradise, and if you disobey him you will enter Hellfire)."[5]

However, some husbands do treat their wives as if they were slaves of an oppressive tyrant. These husbands use different methods in abusing, torturing and even beating their wives. The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best of you is one who is best with one's household (in treatment) and I am the best of you with my household."[6]

I ask Allah ﷻ to lead us in His Straight Path and to grant us happiness in this world and the Hereafter. Our Lord! Bestow on us from our wives and our offspring those who will be the comfort of our eyes, and make us leaders for the righteous people. My Lord! Forgive me, my parents, and him who enters my home as a believer, and all believing

[5] At-Tirmidhi, and the chain of narrators is Sahih.
[6] At-Tirmidhi, and Ibn Majah.

men and women. And to the wrong-doers grant no increase but destruction. The conclusion of our request is: All the Praises and Thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds!

The Curse of Sins upon Marital Happiness

There is no doubt that sins bring misery, disaster, depression, darkness of expression, hardness of heart, and turn happiness to sorrow and love to hatred. Some Salafi Scholars said: "If I disobey Allah I can feel the consequences of my sins on my wife's and horse's behaviour." [7]

Ibn al-Qayyim said: Sins have disgusting effects, which damage the heart and the body in this world and the Hereafter, and which Allah ﷻ Alone knows fully.
It deprives one of knowledge, because knowledge is a light, which Allah ﷻ puts into the heart of a believer, but the sins extinguish that light.

A sinner finds himself alone and separated from Allah ﷻ. He may have the pleasure of the world at his feet, but still feels deprived of any spiritual joy and pleasure. Because of his sins, he is far from happy and his heart is dead. A dead man feels no pain. Therefore, a wise man is he who abandons his sins.

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[7] Ibn al-Qayyim: "*Al-Jawaab al-kaafi Liman Saala Ani ad-Dawaa' ash-Sha'fi*".

Also, a sinner finds himself isolated and a stranger among his friends, especially the righteous ones. The more isolated he gets the more he feels cut off from them and from their help. Worse, he starts getting close to the followers of Satan, may Allah curse him, as he hides himself from the party of Allah. This isolation grows and the sinner loses his temper and falls out with his wife, children and relatives. He starts feeling lonely and alienated.

All his goals become difficult to achieve. The doors are closed in his face whenever he intends to accomplish a job. On the other hand, whoever fears Allah and keeps his duty to Him, He ﷻ will make a way for him to get out from every difficulty. Allah ﷻ often provides a solution in the most unexpected ways or from the most unexpected quarters. But whoever abandons *Taqwa'* (piety), Allah ﷻ will make things difficult for him.

A sinner finds and feels real darkness in his heart similar to the darkest night. The gloom of a sin for the heart is like darkness for the eye. Obedience to Allah is a light and disobedience and sin is like darkness. The more this darkness intensifies, the more confused the sinner

becomes. He, then, becomes unaware and falls victim to innovation (*Bida'*) and misguidance. He becomes like a blind man walking alone in a dark night. Worse than that, this darkness grows until it becomes visible in the eye, then it grows until it emerges on the face, which becomes dark.

Abdullah Ibn Abbas ﷺ said: "A good deed reflects brightness in the face, a light in the heart, abundance in livelihood, strength in the body and love in peoples' hearts. A sin reflects darkness on the face and heart, weakness in the body, scarcity in livelihood and hatred in peoples' hearts."

Moreover, sins reduce a person's life span and obliterate his or her fortune. Piety and righteousness increases one's life span while impiety reduces it.

Among the sins which spread in our Muslim society:

- Abandoning *Salaat*.
- Abandoning *Zakaat*.
- Failing to observe *Hajj* for those who can afford it.
- Slander.
- Drinking intoxicants and smoking.
- Going out to markets wearing indecent clothes and without a male relative (*Mahram*).
- Bringing up children in a Western education.

- Watching filthy movies and listening to music.
- Reading dirty magazines.
- Allowing domestic servants and drivers to enter the house without reason.
- Accompanying evil and corrupt people.
- Neglecting and disobeying one's husband.

These are but a few examples of sins which have become prevalent in our society. Therefore, we have to fear Allah as much as we can, as Allah ﷻ says, **﴾O you who believe! Ward off from yourselves and your families a (Hell) fire whose fuel is men and stones﴿**[8]

[8] At-Tahrim: Verse 6

Obedience to the Husband

Islam has given woman rights and imposed on her some obligations. One of the most significant rights is that of her husband over her. The husband is your Paradise or your Hellfire; that is, if you obey him you will enter Paradise, and if you disobey him you will enter Hellfire. The following are Ahaadith which order a woman to obey her husband:

The Prophet ﷺ said: "When a woman observes her five obligatory prayers, fasts during *Ramadan*, preserves her chastity and obeys her husband, she may enter by any gate of Paradise she wishes." [9]

The Prophet ﷺ said: "If a woman dies while her husband was pleased with her, she will enter Paradise." [10]

The Prophet ﷺ said: "If a husband calls his wife to his bed (to have sexual relations) and she refuses and causes him to sleep in anger, the Angels will curse her till morning."[11]

[9] Reported by Ibn Hibban, al-Bazzaar, Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal, at-Tabarani and al-Baani.
[10] Reported by at-Tirmidhi.

The Prophet ﷺ said: "If I were to order anyone to prostrate himself before another, I should order a woman to prostrate herself before her husband." [12]

When the Prophet ﷺ was asked which woman was best he replied, "The one who pleases (her husband) when he looks at her, obeys him when he gives a command, and does not go against his wishes regarding her person or property by doing anything of which he disapproves." [13]

Therefore, wives who have had a problem in their marriage should be reconciled to their husbands and open a new chapter of a happy relationship.

[11] Agreed upon.
[12] Reported by at-Tirmidhi and Ibn Hibban.
[13] Reported by at-Tirmidhi, an-Nasa'i' and al-Bayhaqi.

The Choice of a Good Wife

A good wife is the cause of happiness in this world. She helps her husband to obey Allah ﷻ, and offers him spiritual tranquility and peace. The Prophet ﷺ said: "Life is a pleasure and the best of its pleasures is a good wife." [14]

Islam has ordered a man to find out about his future wife. He has to make sure that she is a good wife and that she practises all her religious obligations. If a wife knows nothing about Islam and does not meet her religious obligations, she will make a fool of her husband in front of people and spoil his life. The Prophet ﷺ has insisted that a man should choose his future wife according to religious considerations because such a wife will be a help and support for her husband's most important concern as a Muslim, that is, his religion.

The Prophet ﷺ said: "If Allah has blessed any of you with a good wife, He ﷻ has helped him with half of his

[14] Reported by Imam Muslim.

religion, so he should fear Allah with regard to the other half."[15]

On the authority of Sa'd Ibn Abu Waqqas ﷺ, the Prophet ﷺ said: "Four things are the cause of happiness: A good wife, a large house, a good neighbour and a comfortable transport. And four things are the cause of misery: A bad neighbour, a bad wife, an uncomfortable transport and a small house." [16]

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best woman among you is she who pleases her husband when he looks at her, obeys him when he orders her and is faithful towards him regarding her person and his property if he is absent." [17]

The Prophet ﷺ said: "A woman is married for four things, i.e., her wealth, her family status, her beauty and her religion. So you should marry the religious woman (otherwise) you will be a loser." [18]

[15] Reported by Al-Hakim.
[16] Reported by Ibn Hibban.
[17] Reported by an-Nasa'i' and al-Ira'qi classified it as Sahih.
[18] Agreed upon.

On the authority of Thawbaan ﷺ: "We were with the Prophet ﷺ on one of his journeys when the verse, **﴾those who hoard up gold and silver, and spend it not in the Way of Allah, announce unto them a painful torment﴿**[19] was revealed. One of his Companions said, "It has come down about gold and silver. Would that we knew which property is best so that we might acquire it!" He ﷺ replied, "The best property is a tongue which mentions Allah, a grateful heart, and a believing wife who helps a man with his faith."[20]

Co-operation between the husband and wife to obey Allah ﷻ results in a mutual understanding between them. Co-operation is the symbol of a Muslim society, Allah ﷻ says, **﴾Help you one another in virtue and piety﴿** [21] The Prophet ﷺ also encourages couple to help each other in reaching the perfect position in Faith. He ﷺ urges them to sincerely worship Allah, especially during the "Night Prayers".

Abu Hurairah ﷺ said that the Prophet ﷺ said: "May Allah have mercy on a man who gets up at night and prays, and

[19] At-Tawbah: Verse 34.
[20] Transmitted by Imam Ahmed, at-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah.
[21] Al-Ma'idah: Verse 2.

awakens his wife; if she refuses, he should sprinkle water on her face. May Allah have mercy on a woman who gets up at night and prays, and awakens her husband; if he refuses, she should sprinkle water on his face." [22]

Abu Saeed al-Khudri said that the Prophet ﷺ said: "When a man himself wakes at night and wakens his wife and they pray two *Rak'ahs* together, they are recorded among the men and women who make much mention of Allah."[23]

An old woman whose face was shining with joy and beauty was asked: What sort of makeup do you use?
She said: I use for my lips the Truth, for my voice remembrance of Allah, for my eyes lowering my gaze, for my hand performance of good deeds, for my body sincerity and straightness, for my heart the love of Allah, for my mind wisdom, for my soul obedience of Allah and for my desire the Faith (*Eemaan*).

[22] Transmitted by Imam Ahmed, Abu Dawud, an-Nasa'i', Ibn Majah, Ibn Hibban and al-Hakim.
[23] Abu Dawud, an-Nasa'i', Ibn Majah, al-Hakim, adh-Dhahabi, and al-Iraqi.

Greeting the Husband when He Comes Back Home

The husband leaves his work tired and on his way back home he endures the noise and hubbub of the heavy traffic. He heads towards his kingdom, where he can find tranquility, peace of mind, and happiness with his wife and children. So how is the good wife going to meet her husband when he comes home?

Some wives are not at home when their husbands return from work. Whether she is still at work, at the neighbours', with her friends or at her family's, the husband will feel dissatisfied and her absence will leave a bad effect on him. Her husband would love to find her at home so that he could find comfort, peace and tranquility.

However, the wife might be at home when her husband comes back, but she does not greet him properly. She shows no concern for his arrival and leaves him alone without asking about him. Worse than that, she might even welcome him with a gloomy face, a noisy voice, various complaints and bitter resentment. This attitude might make the husband go back to his work immediately.

The following is an example of a woman Companion of the Prophet ﷺ and how she greeted her husband. Her name was Umm Sulaim.

Her son died suddenly after a period of illness. When her husband, Abu Talhah رضي الله عنه, came back home, she did not inform him about their son's death. She first brought him some food and had sexual intercourse, and then she informed him about their son's death.

This is their story as reported by Imam Al-Bukhari in his Sahih, on the authority of Anas Ibn Malik. Abu Talhah had a child who was sick. Once, while Abu Talhah was out, the child died. When Abu Talhah returned home, he asked, "How is the boy?" Umm Sulaim replied, "He is quieter than he has ever been." Then she brought supper for him and he took his supper and slept with her. When he had finished, she said (to him), "Bury the child (as he's dead)." Abu Talha offered the (morning) prayer with the Prophet ﷺ and informed him of what happened to them. Allah's Messenger said, "May Allah bless you concerning your night. (That is, may Allah bless you with good offspring)." Sufyan said, 'One of the Ansar said,

"They (i.e. Abu Talhah and his wife) had nine sons and all of them became reciters of the Qur'an (by heart).'"[24]

How great is Umm Sulaim's wisdom! There is no worse news in the world than to inform a father of his son's death. However, Abu Talhah received it with submission, and it was because of his wife's discretion and wise behaviour. The first question he asked when he returned home was: "How is the boy?" Umm Sulaim, knowing that her husband was tired and preoccupied, could not tell him that he was dead and at the same time could not lie to him. She replied: "He is quieter than he has ever been." What she actually meant was that their son had fallen asleep forever. Moreover, before she could inform him, she brought him dinner and slept with him. Her husband has now become ready to receive the painful news.

[24] Sahih al-Bukhari.

An Example of a Good Wife

This is a rare example of a good woman, whom I have intended to mention here:

It is reported that Shuraih, who was a judge, met ash-Sha'bi. This latter asked him about his life at home. Shuraih said: "I have not had any problem with my wife for twenty years." ash-Sha'bi said: "How come?"

Shuraih replied: "On our wedding night, I looked at her and saw a rare fascinating beauty. I then said to myself: I should make *Wudu'*, pray two *Rakaa't* and praise Allah. When I finished, I found out that she was following me in prayers and finished as soon as I had finished. When the guests left the house, I moved towards her and tried to touch her. But she said: "Wait a minute O Abu Umayyah (i.e., Shuraih), stay where you are." Then, she said: "All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him, seek His aid and ask for His forgiveness. Peace and Blessing be upon Muhammad ﷺ. I am a stranger to you and I have no idea about your morals and attitudes. So tell me what you like and I will do it, and what you hate and I will avoid it. She continued: There must be among your people a woman that

you could have married and a man among my people that I could have married, but Allah ﷻ has accomplished a matter already ordained in His Knowledge. Allah ﷻ has given you control over me, so obey Him; either retain me on reasonable terms or release me with kindness. This is all I have to say and may Allah forgive us both."

Shuraih, then, said: I found myself in need of giving a *Khutbah*, which I had not delivered for quite a long time. I said: All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him, seek His aid and ask for His forgiveness. Peace and Blessing be upon Muhammad ﷺ. You (i.e., his wife) have said many things, which, if you stand firm on them, you will be rewarded, but if you fail them, they will be evidence against you. I love such and such things, and I hate such and such things. You may spread whatever good deed you see, and conceal whatever evil deed you see. She, then, said: "What would you say to my relatives visiting?" I replied: "I do not want your family to dictate things to me." She said: "Which of your neighbours do you want to visit me? I said: "The family of such and such are good people and the family of such and such are bad company.

Shuraih, then, said: I had a wonderful wedding night and our first year was marvelous. When the new year came and

upon my return from the court, I found a woman in my house. I asked my wife: 'Who is she?' My wife replied: 'Your mother-in-law.' My mother-in-law looked at me and asked: "How do you find your wife?" I said: 'The best wife a man can have.' She, then, said: 'O Abu Umayyah, you will be in a worse condition than her only in two cases: if she gives birth to a child or if she enjoys your favours. I swear that men have never been inflicted with a worse evil than a spoilt woman. So discipline your wife.

I lived with my wife for twenty years and never complained about her, except once, and then I was unfair to her.

This is how a husband should be, how a wife should be and how a mother-in-law should be.

Adornment for the Husband

Nowadays, many wives do not adorn themselves for their husbands. However, whenever an occasion arises, they sit in front of the mirror to fix their hair, wear their best clothes and get smartened up. But when it comes to their husbands, they seem to ignore themselves; they welcome their husbands in their cooking clothes, smelling of garlic and onions. Therefore, does a woman's role lie in adorning herself for other women at parties and ceremonies, or for her husband?

The wise wife is the one who knows how to win her husband's heart, which means that she must always be a new wife in his life. A sweet word is an ornament, an affectionate smile is a beauty, a good scent and beautiful clothes are a joy, and constant cleanliness is purity and worship, because you are the *Houri* (nymph) in this world and the mistress of palaces in the Gardens of Paradise, Insha Allah.

Dear wife, you should learn from the Qur'an the moral principles of the Houris and make every effort to win your husband's heart.

The Right of the Husband over his Wife

The rights of the husband over his wife are greater than her rights over him, because Allah ﷻ says, **﴾but men have a degree over them﴿**[25] and the Prophet ﷺ said: "If I were to order anyone to prostrate himself before another, I should order a woman to prostrate herself before her husband." [26]. The Prophet ﷺ said: "If a husband calls his wife to his bed (i.e. to have sexual relations) and she refuses and causes him to sleep in anger, the Angels will curse her till morning."[27].

Another Hadith which indicates the importance of the husband is that of Abu Saeed al-Khudri ؓ; he said: "A man brought his daughter to the Prophet ﷺ and said: 'My daughter has refused to get married.' The Prophet ﷺ said: "Obey your father." The girl, then, said: 'I swear by Allah, I will not get married until you tell me the rights of the husband over his wife.' The Prophet ﷺ replied: "The right of the husband over his wife is that even if there is a wound in his body and she licks it, or if his nostrils drip mucus and

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[25] Al-Baqarah: Verse 228.
[26] Transmitted by at-Tirmidhi.
[27] Agreed upon.

blood and then she swallows them, she will still never pay her husband his due." The girl said: 'I swear by Allah that I will never get married.' The Prophet ﷺ said: 'Do not marry her except by her permission.'"[28]

The Prophet ﷺ said to the aunt of Hissin Ibn Mihsan when she mentioned her husband, "Make sure that you obey him, because he is your Paradise or Hellfire (i.e. if you obey him you will enter Paradise, but if you disobey him you will enter Hellfire)."[29]

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Your wives are among the devoted women of Paradise, if they are harmed or harm someone, and they come to their husbands and put their hands on their palms and said, I will not sleep until you are pleased." [30]

The Prophet ﷺ said: "There are two people whose prayer does not pass beyond their ears: the runaway slave till he returns, and the woman who disobeys her husband till she repents." [31]

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[28] Transmitted by al-Bazzaar and Ibn Hibban in his 'Sahih'.
[29] Transmitted by at-Tirmidhi, Imam Ahmed, an-Nasa'i', and al-Hakim.
[30] Transmitted by at-Tabarani.
[31] Transmitted by al-Hakim and al-Bani.

The Prophet ﷺ said: "If I were to command anyone to make prostration before another I would command women to prostrate themselves before their husbands, because of the special right over them given to husbands by Allah. A wife will not find the sweetness of *Eeman* (Faith) until she fulfils her husband's right even if he asks her for sexual relation while she is on a hump."[32]

Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, said: "O you women! If you knew the right of your husbands over you, you would clean the dust of your husbands' feet with your cheeks."

From the above Ahadith, we can clearly see the right of the husbands over their wives. Therefore, a woman should please her husband and fulfil her duties towards him. She should bring happiness to his life and should not be arrogant and raise her voice to him, as some weak women do.

A wife should always respect her husband, and not spoil his life and joy. She should listen to him when he is

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[32] Transmitted by Imam Ahmed, Ibn Majah, Ibn Hibban and al-Bayhaqi.

talking to her and not argue with him. She should not refuse if her husband asks her for sexual relations. She should commit herself to purity and making herself attractive for him, and look after his family and relatives. The husband for his part should be honest in his ethics and behaviour.

She should not perform supererogatory fasting unless he allows her; she should not let anyone in except with his permission, she should not leave the house unless he gives her permission, and she should look after and provide an Islamic education for the children.

Sheikh al-Islam, Ibn Taimiyyah, said: "A woman in her husband's house is like a slave and a captive. She has no right to go out of the house without her husband's permission, even if her parents order her to do so. This is the consensus of the majority of scholars. And if the husband decides to move to another place, after fulfilling all his religious obligations regarding his wife, but her father objects to her moving, she should not obey her parents but should follow her husband. In this case, her parents have transgressed because they have no right to order their daughter to disobey her husband. Also, she should not obey her mother if she orders her to ask her

husband to divorce her or irritate him till he divorces her, by demanding too much support, clothes and dowry. If the husband obeys Allah ﷻ and treats his wife with love and kindness, the wife should not, by any means, take orders from her parents.

On the authority of Thawbaan, the Prophet ﷺ said: "If any woman asks her husband for divorce without some strong reason, the odour of Paradise will be forbidden to her." In another Hadith: "Women who withdraw themselves from their husbands or persuade their husbands to divorce them for a compensation are hypocrites."[33]

However, if her parents order her to obey Allah ﷻ and the Prophet ﷺ, by performing *Salaat* in their appointed times, by telling the truth, by fulfilling her duties and not spending her money lavishly, she must obey them. In addition, if the husband asks his wife to do something which Allah has forbidden, or forbids her to do what Allah has ordered, she should not obey him, because the Prophet ﷺ said: "A creature is not to be obeyed when it

[33] Transmitted by Abu Dawud, at-Tirmidhi, an-Nasa'i' and Abu Hatim in his 'Sahih'.

involves disobedience to the Creator." [34] If a king orders one of his servants to disobey Allah, he should not obey him, so how can a woman obey her husband or one of her parents and disobey Allah? All good things come from obeying Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ and all the evil emanates from disobeying Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ." [35]

[34] Transmitted by at-Tirmidhi.
[35] *Fata'wa'* of Sheikh al-Islam Ibn Taimiyyah, Vol.32, p.262-264.

Important Questions and Answers[36]

Question: Who is the most beautiful woman?
Answer: Beauty is that of the soul, education and moral values. Every woman has a share of beauty, and she should look after it and preserve it. But although the beauty of the body and the face may have a quick effect, it can never reach the level of a spiritual beauty in its splendid, radiance and lasting.

Q: Who is the happiest woman?
A: The happiest woman is she who shows love for human beings. This love has illuminated her soul with beauty, affection and eternal spring, and love and obedience for her Lord ﷻ.

Q: Who is the most miserable woman?
A: The most miserable woman is the one who abandons her femininity and thinks that freedom is the shortest way to a man's heart, whereas this absolute freedom distorts her image and shakes her position in his heart. The miserable woman is the one who spends money lavishly,

[36] Sheikh Mahmud Mahdi al-Istanbuli, "*Tuhfat Al-Arus*".

worships foreign fashion and loses herself to fame and ostentatiousness.

Q: If a wife loves her husband and then finds out in him some aspects of his character, which do not conform to her temperament and aim in life, what can she do?
A: In this situation, this woman should show her skills in dealing with the problem patiently, especially if she secures his trust and love. Love generates love and it is the best way to solve any problem. A scholar once said: "Love can restrain untamable souls and can also destroy the foundation. So, it is up to us to know how to use and how to understand love."

With her beautiful smile showing on her face, a woman can win the heart of her husband and bring happiness to his life. It has a huge effect on him and can achieve much. A happy marriage is not only the husband's but also the wife's responsibility. Many women have managed to reform their husbands by wisdom and love.

Q: What are the symbol and attributes of a believing woman?
A: For a believing woman Islam is her way of life and the Qur'an is her Light. She fears Allah ﷻ and abstains

from the desires and attractions of the world. She knows that Allah has created her to give birth to leaders of the world.

Q: How can a wife make her husband happy?
A: The wife has an important role to play to make her husband happy and protect him from temptations and the lure of the outside world. She has a challenge to overcome. A clever woman is one who can make her husband look only at her and adjust everything to her own benefit. A successful woman is one who knows what her husband likes and attracts him with the clothes she wears, and the colours of her clothes and make up. The worst mistake a woman can commit is to neglect the way she dresses and puts on her make-up at home, especially when she greets her husband on his return from work smelling of the kitchen and with untidy hair.

Therefore, we should not be surprised to see a man neglecting his beautiful wife and looking at other women, whereas some less beautiful women manage to win their husbands' hearts and affections. A wife is responsible for her marital happiness or misery.

We advice women to look after their appearance and beauty at home. They should not greet their husbands with constant complaints. They should prepare a comfortable home for them by reducing the children's noise, smelling sweet and surprising them with nice food, which they like. In short, a wife should make the house a heaven for her husband.

Some Useful Advice

(1)[37] Umamah Bint al-Harith at-Tghlibiyyah was among the esteemed ladies in Arabia. She had some renowned and wise ethics and advice. When her daughter, Iyas Bint Awf, got married to the King of Kindah, al-Harith Ibn Amru', and was ready to go to her new life, she gave her some valuable advice.

Umamah Bint al-Harith told her daughter: "O my daughter, if one ignores advice because of one's moral values or noble descent I will not bother to advise you, but it is a reminder for the rational and a warning to a negligent. O daughter, if a woman could dispense with a husband because of her father's wealth, I would be the richest of all people, but we were created for men as they were created for us. O daughter, you are now going to leave the house in which you were brought up and move to a new nest which you do not know and a husband you are not familiar with. Your husband has control over you now, so you should be to him like a slave girl and he will

[37] Sheikh Ahmed al-Hisin, "*Al-Mar'ah al-Muslimah Amama at-Tahaddiyyaat*".

become your slave. You should bear in mind ten characteristics and your husband will be yours forever.

First and second: Companionship with satisfaction and obedience, because there is happiness of the heart in contentment and pleasure of the Lord. Third and fourth: never do anything which annoys him and always put on a nice scent for him. You should know my daughter that *Kuhl* (antimony powder used both as decoration and a medicine for the eyes) is the most excellent beauty that exists and that water is the best thing for purity. Fifth and sixth: never ignore his hunger and spoil his sleep. Seventh and eighth: Looking after his house, money and children. Ninth and tenth: never disclose his secrets nor disobey his orders, because if you disclose his secrets you will be unable to regain his trust and if you disobey him you will arouse his anger. More than that, never show delight at his misery, nor sadness at his joy, because the former shows lack of consideration for your husband and the latter disrespect. And the more you respect him the more he will be kind to you, and the more you agree with him the longer he will remain with you.

You should know my daughter that you will not be able to do that unless you prefer his pleasure to yours and his

desires to yours in what you love and hate. I ask Allah ﷻ to guide you and grant you happiness. And Allah be with you.

(2) [38] A mother advises her daughter on her wedding night saying:

Do not neglect cleaning your body, because the purity of your body brings shine to your face and love of your husband, prevents diseases and strengthens your body for work. Normally, people are put off by an to ill-smelling woman. And you should meet your husband with a smile because love is a body whose soul is a smile.

(3) [39] A contemporary woman advised her daughter saying:

You are about to enter a new life; different from the one you grew up in. A life in which you will not have your father, mother nor your brothers and sisters. You will become the wife of a man who wants nobody to share you with him, even your closest relative.

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[38] Sheikh Muhammad Ismail: "*Awdat al-Hijab*", Vol.2.
[39] From the book "*Tuhfat al-Arous.*"

You should be to him like a wife and a mother; make him feel that you are everything in his life. You should keep in mind that a man is like a big child; the slightest sweet word can make him happy. Never make him feel that by marrying you, you will lose your family and relatives, because he has left his family as well for you. Normally, a woman longs for her family's affection and home, in which she grew up. However, she should get used to her new life and her husband who is her children's father and support. My daughter, this is your life and future, the new family, which you and your husband will form. I do not ask you to forget your mother, father and brothers and sisters because they will never forget you. All I want from you is that you love and live with your husband and feel happy with him.

(4)[40] Muhammad Ibn Abdussalaam al-Khushani advised his son saying:

Do not marry any kind of woman: for her speech is a threat and her voice is vehement. She ignores your good

[40] Fu'ad Shaakir, from the book "*Linnisa'i faqat*".

deeds to her and discloses your evil deeds. She ignores you in your dire difficulties and has no affection and no fear for her husband. If her husband gets home, she goes out and if he goes out, she gets in. If he smiles, she cries and if he cries, she smiles. If he divorces her, he raises his grievances to Allah. She is less supportive, eats her share and other people's share, and criticises every one, clamorous, usurper, disgusting and despicable. Her house is like a dunghill. She cries even if she is the offender and testifies even if she is absent. She does not speak the truth and always shows immorality.

Behind Every Great Man There Stands a Woman

- Az-Zubair Ibn al-Awwaam, one of the Prophet's ﷺ Companions, was raised by his mother, Safiyyah daughter of Abdul Muttalib. He inherited her attitude and natural disposition. And his three sons, Abdullah Ibn az-Zubair, al-Mundhir and Urwah, were brought up also by their mother, Asma' daughter of Abu Bakr as-Sidiq. The three sons gave much to Islam.

- Muawiyyah Ibn Abu Sufyaan inherited from his mother, Hind daughter of Utbah, more than he inherited from his father. She was asked once when Muawiyyah was still a baby: "If he lives, he will rule his people." She replied: "I want him to rule the whole world."

- Sufyaan ath-Thawri was also brought up by his mother. Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal reported, on the authority of Waki': "The mother of Sufyaan told her son (Sufyaan ath-Thawri), 'O son! Acquire knowledge and I will meet your needs with my work." She, may Allah

have mercy upon her, used to work hard so that he could devote all his time to knowledge and study."

A Tale of Two Women

This is a comparison between two women; each one with a husband and a separate home:

The First Woman:
She performs *Fajr* prayer and then prepares breakfast for her husband and children.

The Second Woman:
She performs *Fajr* prayer just before its appointed time is due and then goes back to sleep.

The First Woman:
After having breakfast, she gets the children ready for school and her husband for his work in a comfortable frame of mind.

The Second Woman:
She wakes up late and hits her daughter because she has not combed her hair. She yells at her son because he has not got out of bed yet. Accordingly, everybody in the house starts screaming and shouting. Then, the husband wakes up and leaves the house distressed, without having

breakfast. On his way to work, he stops to have breakfast in a Café; as a result, he gets to work late and Muslim businesses are delayed.

The First Woman:
As soon as her children have gone to school and her husband to his work, she takes an hour's rest, and then she recites her daily *Hizb* of the Qur'an and listens to an Islamic tape. Afterwards, she starts doing her housework and prepares quick sandwiches for her children, before they come from school. Then, she prepares lunch.

The Second Woman:
As soon as the children have gone to school and her husband to work, she goes straight to bed and sleeps till noon. When she wakes up she goes to see her neighbours. When the children come back from school, they cannot find her because she is still talking to the neighbours. As soon as she comes to the house, an uproar starts. Then, she prepares a quick lunch for the children.

The First Woman:

She is on the doorstep waiting to welcome her husband with a broad smile on her face, beautiful clothes and a nice perfume. She then brings lunch for him and, afterwards, lets him take a short nap for rest. She takes the children to another room to do their homework.

The Second Woman:

The husband comes back from work seeking tranquility and peace; unfortunately, he finds the shoes and clothes of the children all over the house. His wife meets him with an angry look, with her cooking clothes and the smell of onions. Lunch is ready but only after a long wait. The husband tries to get some rest but cannot find a quiet place.

The First Woman:

After *Asr Salaat*, She tidies her house and changes her children's clothes. She, then, makes herself ready in case the husband wants to take them to visit some relatives. The children are playing with their father who is pleased to see his children clean and smartly dressed.

The Second Woman:

After lunch, she sleeps. Her neighbours wake her up for a chat. She ignores her untidy house and her dirty children.

The First Woman:

After *Maghreb* and *Isha' Salaat*, she sits with her children to teach them some short Surah of the Qur'an and some *Adhkaar* (Supplications) of the Prophet ﷺ. Afterward, she tells them to do their homework and goes to prepare dinner. After dinner, the children play for an hour and then go to bed. She then goes to her bedroom to talk to her husband after putting on her nice clothes and jewellery. They sleep happily.

The Second Woman:

After *Maghreb* and *Isha' Salaat*, the children go on playing and making a lot of noise till one o'clock in the morning before going to bed. The husband cannot sleep because of the noise. The wife then goes to bed tired and has neglected her husband.

What do you think about the two women?

Disarray and Mess

The husband comes home to finds it in a messy state. The children have been playing with their toys; the games and the clothes are scattered everywhere. The children meet him in dirty clothes with a bad smell, and the wife with an angry look and in a bad mood.

He asks for lunch but it is not ready yet. He has lunch after a row and goes to bed to have a rest. Unfortunately, the bed is untidy; the baby's bottle on his pillow, biscuits on the floor…etc. The poor husband finds it difficult to take a short nap and his wife ignores him.

What can this poor man do?

The Upbringing of the Children

One of the most important obligations for a wife, if she wants to win the heart and pleasure of her husband, is to give his children an Islamic education. She should instill in them the love of Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ and bring them up knowing the true Islamic Faith.

A child is like radar[41], he picks everything he hears and sees in front of him. If his mother is honest, chaste, truthful and brave, the child will be raised in a healthy and respectable environment. However, if the mother goes astray and has immoral and corrupt principles, the child will inherit from her those evil qualities. Even if a child is born on *al-Fitrah* (Islam), his parents should guide him on the straight Islamic path and teach him the true Faith; otherwise he will be led in the wrong direction if they neglect his education. The Prophet ﷺ was right when he said: "No child is born except on *Al-Fitrah* (Islam) and then his parents make him Jewish, Christian or Magian."[42]

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[41] Khayriyyah Sabir, from the book "*Dawr al-Umm Fi Tarbiyyati at-Tifli al-Muslim*".
[42] Sahih al-Bukhari on the authority of Abu Hurairah.

Imam Al-Ghazaali drew up this list of the aims of an Islamic education.

1- To teach them the Qur'an, the biography of the Prophets and Messengers and Shari'ah.
2- To teach them to obey their parents and respect their teachers and their elders.
3- To keep them away from bad company because behaviour and manners are transferred by imitation.
4- To praise and reward them publicly if they perform a good deed. However, if they commit an evil deed, they should be reprimanded in private, and not scolded publicly, especially, in front of their friends. They should also be used to modesty.
5- To get them used to endurance and patience.
6- To get them used to a rough life and not a life of ease and comfort.
7- To be prevented from insulting, swearing and idle talk.
8- To be warned against wrongdoing and sins, such as theft, disloyalty, obscene language and unlawful earnings.

9- To be allowed to practice some physical education, but only after completing Islamic duties and education.
10- To fully care for and educate children from birth, as their souls are still pure and fresh, because everything that is taught to a child is engraved in his mind, be it good or bad. [43]

I ask Allah ﷻ to grant us righteous offspring.

[43] Sheikh Ahmed al-Hisin, "*Al-Mar'ah al-Muslimah Amama at-Tahaddiyyaat*".

A Sincere word of Advice[44]

This advice contains some valuable lessons:

Sister in Islam, Islam has honoured you and given you rights and obligations, which no other woman in any time and place has ever achieved before. These rights and obligations are incomparable in any human civilization. They entitle you, sister, to be proud of your religion (Islam) and hold fast to its teachings, which are the path to your happiness in this world and the Hereafter. Therefore, in order to know your full rights, which Islam has granted you, you should study it thoroughly and deeply. This will enable you to see clearly that this glorious religion has given you much more than what some Muslim women, who are influenced by the Western culture, are claiming today. These westernized Muslim women are encouraged to believe that Muslim women have no rights; that is why they are wrongly driven to fight for a cause, which has no roots in our Muslim Society.

[44] Saeed al-Jandoul: from the book "*Al-Jins An-Na'im Fi Dhili Al-Islam*".

Sister in Islam, you are living under the banner of Islam, which is complete and covers all aspects of life. You are respected and fully protected by the laws of this religion. Accordingly, you should have your own personality, which is different from that of disbelievers'. By abiding by the Orders and Laws of Allah ﷻ, you will give a perfect example and a shining image of a righteous Muslim woman. By your moral values and good behaviour, you will give the best example in honesty, chastity, and purity.

Sister in Islam, do not be misled by the allure of the world, the traditions and civilization of the West. If you do so, you will end up a loser. You should know what is good and what is bad for you. You should avoid the example of the woman who rejects her Islamic moral values and faith. Sister in Islam, Islam has illuminated your mind, so do not follow the course of any woman who has different faith and principles than yours. You should adhere to your faith and ethics because you are on the right path and others are wrong. Moreover, you should be patient when you are subjected to the criticism and condemnation of deviant and corrupt people. The struggle between right and falsehood, between good and

evil and between righteous people and evil ones will go on till the Day of Resurrection.

Sister in Islam, by following the Right Path and by your good behaviour, you will provide society with a good and respectable generation, which knows its obligations toward Allah and society. Sister, you are the only one capable of making your home a school, in which your children will learn everything that is good and beautiful. You should strive to bring up a generation based on moral values and ethics. Do not hand your kids to a non-Muslim nursemaid or send them to a non-Islamic school. If you do so, you will contribute, intentionally or unintentionally, in guiding them to a religion and faith other than theirs. Sister, do not be responsible for your children's deviation and misguidance, because Allah ﷻ accepts no other religion except Islam.

You should not risk sending your children to your enemies' school and expect an Islamic education. Sooner or later, you will end up with children who are spiritually and intellectually linked to their non-Muslim teachers. They will have different traditions, principles and values. Never think that a non-Muslim teacher or school will give your children an Islamic education.

Sister in Islam, the Prophet ﷺ said: "None of you will have faith till he desires for his brother (in Islam) what he desires for himself." Therefore, I hope that you will be committed, in all aspects of life, to Allah's Orders, and avoid all that displeases Him ﷻ. By doing so, you will achieve happiness in this world and the Hereafter.

How to Win Your Husband's Heart

A Muslim woman who holds fast to Islamic values and principles knows how to win her husband's heart. The followings are of the most important reasons for winning your husband's heart:

1- Obedience to Allah ﷻ.
2- Abstention from sins.
3- Showing obedience and kindness towards the husband.
4- Cleaning of the house and purity of the wife.
5- Providing an Islamic education for children.
6- Looking after the husband.
7- Welcoming the husband with a smile and preparing a good atmosphere for him.
8- Showing love and respect toward him.
9- Showing respect toward his family, especially his parents.
10- Showing good manners and morals toward the husband, because morals are the real beauty. It is really sad to see some Muslim women with no moral values. They raise their voices in front of their husbands and scowl at old people. They are

arrogant and disrespectful. Is this the conduct of a Muslim woman?

Allah ﷻ says, **﴾those who control their wrath and are forgiving toward mankind; Allah loves the good﴿** [45]. Also the Prophet ﷺ has encouraged us to have moral values; he ﷺ said: "Kindness is the best character." [46] He ﷺ also said: "The heaviest thing in the balance of a believer is good character, for Allah hates ill-mannered and the corrupt people." [47] The Prophet ﷺ said: "The most beloved Servants of Allah to Allah are the ones who have the best character and manners." [48]

The Prophet ﷺ was asked about the things that makes people enter Paradise most? He ﷺ said: "The thing which most commonly brings people into Paradise is fear of Allah and good character."[49]

I ask Allah ﷻ to make this small paper of ample benefit to all Muslims. I feel that I have not done enough to

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[45] Surat Al-Imran: Verse 134.
[46] Sahih Muslim.
[47] Sahih *Al-Ja'mi'*.
[48] Sahih *Al-Ja'mi'*.
[49] Transmitted by at-Tirmidhi, Imam Ahmed, Ibn Majah and Ibn Hibban.

cover this subject from all angles. However, I have done my best, and if I have acted in exactly the right manner, it is only by the Help of Allah; and if I have erred, it is from Satan and myself. Peace and Blessing be upon our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.